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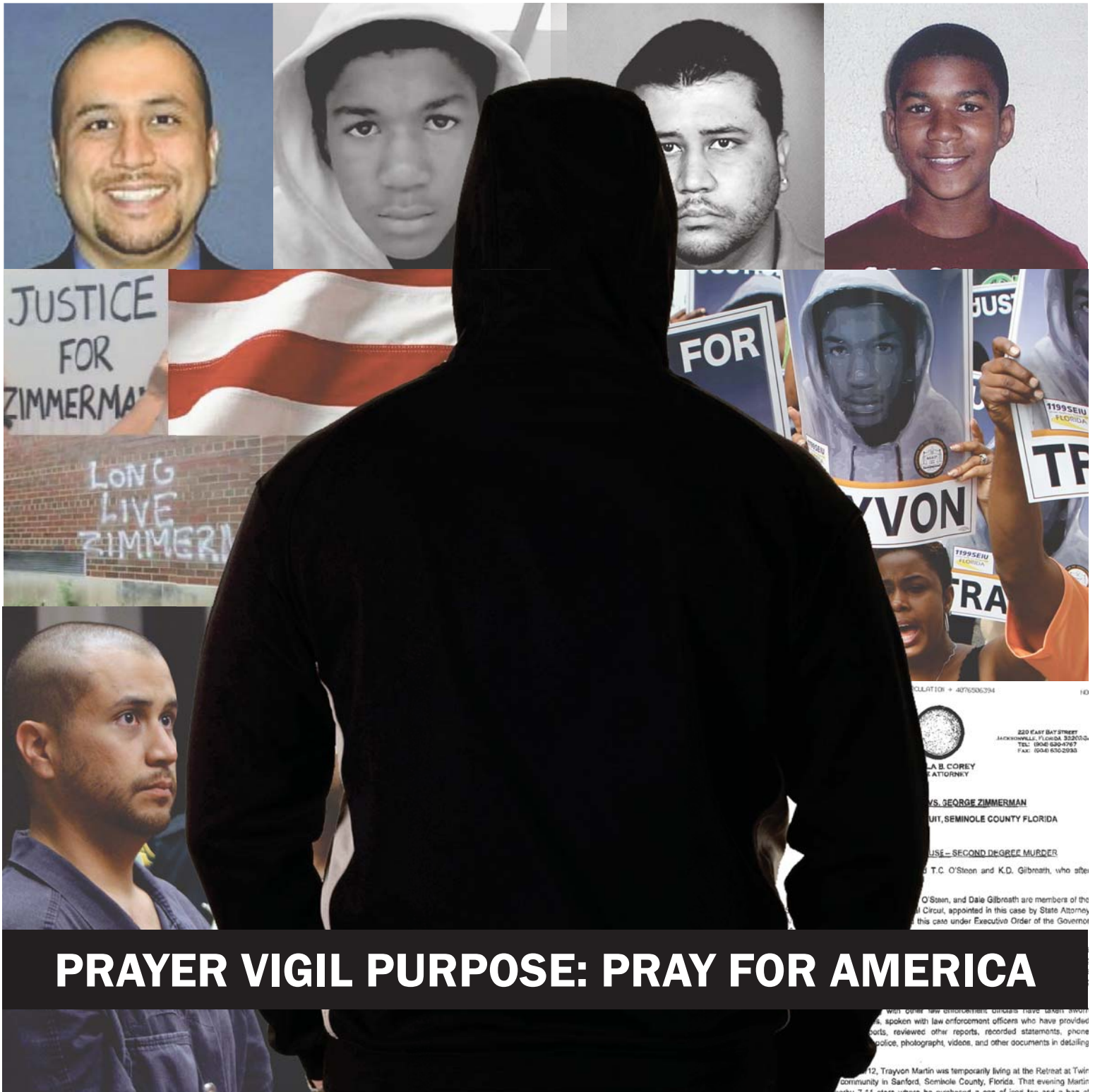
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CEDARS

The Student News Publication of Cedarville University

March 2012



PRAYER VIGIL PURPOSE: PRAY FOR AMERICA

Just Sayin' ...

What I Learned at Cedarville: What Not to Do

It's crazy to think that this is the last Just Sayin' I will ever write. I could go all sappy about it, but I'd rather leave Cedarville with a few lessons of "What Not to Do" that I have learned from my time here.



Bekah Cvetich

Don't draw pictures of your professors in your notes. When I took Politics & American Culture with Dr. Rich, I almost died of boredom because I loathe politics. Most of the time in class I spent reading "Twilight" (I was a freshman ... those were dark days for me). But when I wasn't reading pathetic literature, I thought it would be funny to draw funny pictures of Dr. Rich. One day, I was showing my friend Dave these pictures and telling him how much I hated this politics class. I didn't connect the dots that my friend's last name was my professor's last name until he exclaimed, "Bekah, that's my dad!" I apologized profusely and begged him not tell his father, so I thought I was safe when I walked into Dr. Rich's class on final exam day. But he walked into the room, looked straight at me and said, "I hear you have some pretty interesting notes from my class. I want to see what I look like in those pictures of yours." Thankfully, I didn't have my notebook with me, but I laugh/cried through the entire exam and got a C in the class ... my worst grade ever. In all my subsequent classes, I kept my notebooks spotless.

Don't date anyone just because you're sick of being single. My junior year, I reconnected on Facebook with a guy I'd met at summer camp when I was 16, and he asked me out on a date. I figured, hey I'm a junior in college and have no boyfriend, so I'm obviously going to die alone ... maybe I should give this a try. He ended up trying to take me out to eat at Hooters, used cheesy pickup lines

on me ("Are you distracted by the music? I'm distracted by something beautiful in this car right now, and it's not this Adam Lambert song") and told me he had a bunch of alcohol in his trunk so that he and his friends could get drunk and see how fast they could solve a Rubik's Cube. Then when I asked him to take me home, he pulled into the Lowe's parking lot (real classy) and tried to kiss me ... and when I pushed him away, he got his hand stuck in my hair. After that train wreck, I decided I would much rather be single.

Don't say whatever pops into your head. My freshman year, I was wearing a watch that had a faulty latch, and it fell off my wrist as I was leaving Chuck's. Some very attractive upperclassman guy picked it up and handed it back to me. I got all nervous and tried to be funny and immediately blurted out what came to mind: "Sorry, stuff falls off me all the time. At least it wasn't my shirt!" He gave me a very disturbed look, and I sprinted out of Chuck's mortified. That little incident taught me to think before I speak ... and to not wear things that fall off.

Don't take for granted the time you have here. At JS this year, they played "Larger Than Life" by the Backstreet Boys during the designated "time of movement." So, when the line "that's what makes you larger than life" played, I puffed out my cheeks and held my arms out like a fatty and bounced around the dance ... erm ... "movement" floor. And yes, I did look ridiculous. But now that I'm almost done, I realized I don't want to waste a minute of my time at Cedarville being self-conscious and boring when I could be having fun. Seriously, it's the last time you can act like an idiot in public and get away with it. No way I'm busting that move out in a job interview. So until the day I graduate, I plan on taking advantage of every second here and living it up. Prepare for a whole lot of crazy.

Just sayin'.

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April 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Matthew Moore: Gospel of John Presentation Sr. Recital: Andrew Price	3	4	5	6	7
No school: Easter Break						
8	9	10 Senior Party	11	12 Instrumental Chamber Music Concert Art Gala 2012	13 CU Friday MiniArnold Competition Junior Senior Banquet	14 Junior Class Minute to Win It Competition Traditional Irish Music Session
No school: Easter Break						
15 Sr. Recital: Gretchen Mayer	16 Women's Choir Concert	17 Bach's Lunch: The Demerits Symphonic Band & Brass Choir Concert	18	19 Opera Concert	20 Orchestra and Concerto Concert STP: Sing Sweet Nightengale	21
22	23 Choral Concert	24 General Recital Faculty Recital: Jun Kim College Rep Round Table Discussion	25 Jazz Band Concert	26	27	28 
29	30 No Chapel Composition Recital	1	2	3	4 Convocation Senior Celebration 2012	5 116 Annual Commencement
Final Exams - No Chapel						

Women's Sports	Men's Sports
Women's Softball vs. Lake Erie - April 2 vs. Malone - April 6 vs. Walsh - April 10 vs. Urbana - April 17 vs. Salem International - April 21 vs. Indianapolis - April 24 Women's Tennis vs. Central State - April 12 vs. Ursuline - April 12 vs. Indiana Wesleyan - April 14 vs. Wittenberg - April 17 vs. Indiana-East - April 19	Men's Baseball vs. Notre Dame OH - April 6 vs. Salem International - April 13 vs. Salem International - April 14 vs. Ohio Christian - April 16 vs. Oakland City - April 20 vs. Oakland City - April 21 vs. Urbana - April 27 vs. Malone - May 1 Men's Tennis vs. Central State - April 10 vs. Aquinas - April 13 vs. Ohio Dominican - April 17 vs. West Virginia State - April 18

ELLIV
Saturday, April 28
7 p.m. — DMC
Tickets — \$14, \$16 for early entry

Senior Celebration
Friday, May 4
Dixon Ministry Center

Two Orgs Hold Trayvon Martin Prayer Vigil



Photo by Jonathan Bundy

Cedarville students pray at a vigil in response to the death of Trayvon Martin. The vigil was organized by two student organizations.

By Crystal Goodremote

In light of the controversy and racial issues brought up by the Trayvon Martin case, the Diversity Student Programming Team and the P.E.A.C.E Project held a prayer vigil April 12.

Amber Strickland, one of the event's organizers, said several people thought the vigil meant the university was taking sides on the case, but it was meant to be just a time of prayer for America.

"We sought to pray for the families of Trayvon Martin as well as George Zimmerman and his family," Strickland said. "We were not seeking to cast judgment or condemn anyone but to come together and pray for our country as we grapple with several different issues the coverage of Trayvon's death has made apparent."

However, the vigil in response to Martin's death raised concerns about race issues on Cedarville's campus. According to Rachel Bond, a student who attended the prayer vigil, several people deny that the situation has anything to do with race.

"A lot of people on this campus don't think it's a race issue because they have never interacted with racial issues or racial problems," Bond said. "I think a lot of people are numb to it or blind to the sheer fact that this campus is all white and there is no diversity among it."

According to the CU registrar's office, 7.14 percent of students in 2011 were minorities.

Jeff Cook, a speaker at the vigil and a urban ministry professor, said most people on Cedarville's campus do not have to deal with racial problems and therefore do not understand them.

"The fact of the matter is, I'm not suspicious for walking down the street in a gated community in a hoodie," Cook said at the vigil. "Most of you are not suspicious walking down a street in a gated community in a hoodie."

Cook said in an email that he didn't know what Zimmerman was thinking when he shot Martin.

**"It was brought up
in the media, and
whether they are
right or wrong, it is
affecting our nation."**

Briana DuPree

P.E.A.C.E. Advisor

Carl Ruby, vice president for student life, said students need to understand the racial issues in this case.

"Of course this is a 'race case,'" he said in an email. "You would have to be pretty naïve not to recognize that this is a case with strong racial overtones."

Although he believes race played a big part in the Trayvon Martin situation, Ruby said that does not mean Zimmerman hunted Martin and shot him because he was black. However, Ruby said he doubts the event would have unfolded the same if Martin were white.

Briana DuPree, the advisor for the P.E.A.C.E. project, said that whether the altercation was racially motivated or not, the bigger picture is that there was a 17-year-old who got killed. There are hundreds of kids that are killed just about every day and no one hears, she said, and that's a problem.

"People being murdered shouldn't be something that we are just like, 'Oh whatever,' and 'You kind of see that with the Hunger Games' and all that," Dupree said. "So I think it was the perfect opportunity for us to stop and pray for our nation."

Cook said that, as a body of believers, when one part of the body hurts, all Christians should hurt.

"When I see Trayvon as my son, as my brother, as my sibling, as the young man who was loved by his mother, loved by his father, loved by his extended family – who will miss him at the Thanksgiving table this year – who had a future like any 17-year-old kid," Cook said to the crowd of about 100, "when I view him as that, when we view him as that because of who we are, then we stand in unity as a family of God and grieve, and we pray."

Cook spoke about justice for Martin and how he should be viewed as a person rather than the stereotype that is often placed on young black males.

However, Cook said that Christians should grieve that it took 45 days and a national outcry to move the justice system from a position of assuming that Zimmerman had done nothing wrong. He also said that Christians should call for George Zimmerman to be treated justly. Cook said that guilt or innocence should be decided in a court.

Zimmerman's lawyers said he will plead not guilty to the second-degree murder charge, according to the BBC.

Ruby said he thinks the P.E.A.C.E Project and Diversity Student Programming Team did an excellent job making sure the event avoided any rush in judgment.

Laura Kuebel, a student who attended the event, said she appreciated Cedarville's willingness to address the issue.

"I think it was smart for [DuPree] and Justin Spann to take something that the media has portrayed as fully about race and then take this prayer meeting and have the Diversity Committee sponsor it," Kuebel said. "It was a neat way for them to put themselves out there."

DuPree said the point was not to cast judgment but to discuss a hot topic in popular culture and approach it as believers.

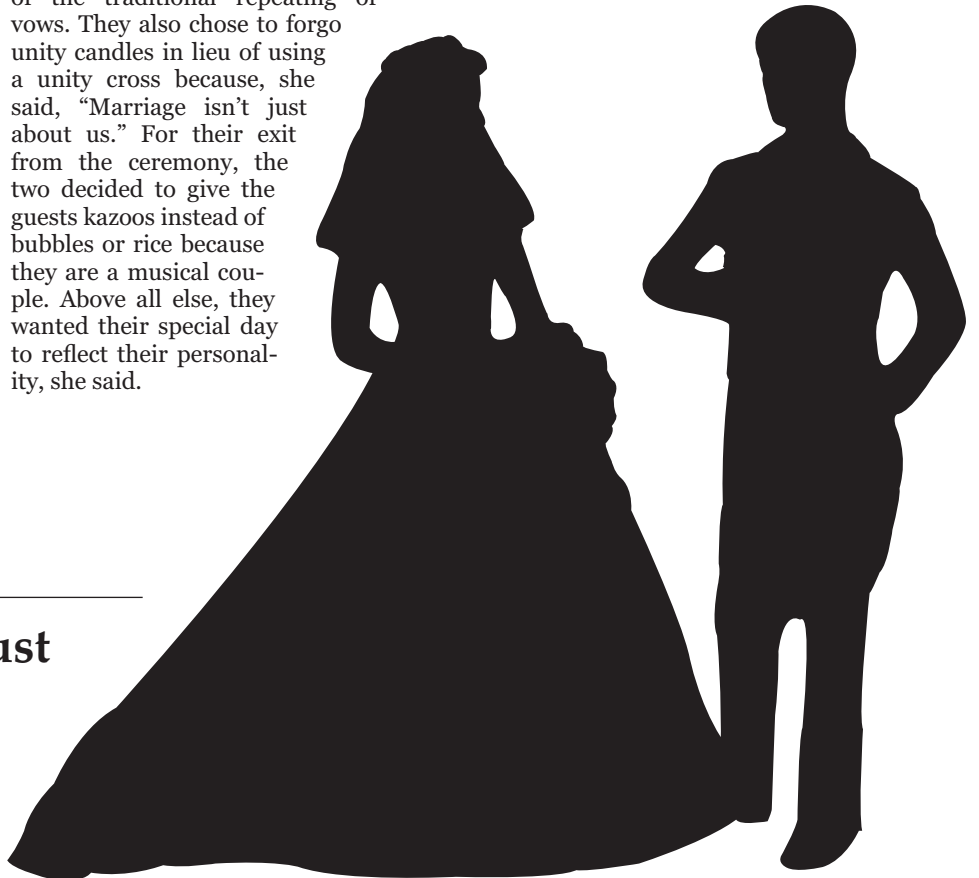
"It was brought up in the media, and whether they are right or wrong, it is affecting our nation," DuPree said. "As Christians, the least we can do is pray about it and seek God's will to be done."

How to Plan Your Wedding in College

by Bekah Cvetich

With Cedarville's "ring by spring" mentality, many couples get engaged in college and have to plan their weddings in the midst of university life. But finding the balance between writing papers and writing the guest list isn't easy. Fortunately, many Cedarville students have succeeded at planning their weddings in college and have passed on some tips on how to make it go as smoothly as possible:

- 1. Let other people help:** Weddings are a lot less stressful when the bride can delegate. Senior Felicia Dyksterhouse, who married last summer, said she used a friend as a hairdresser, had her sister make itineraries, used her aunt as the photographer and had her grandmother hem her dress. "Ask people to help," she said. "They know it's a big day — you can't do it all yourself."
- 2. Be practical:** Try to buy things that can be used after the wedding. Alumnus Kylee Rucinski, who also married last summer, said she and her now husband Garrett picked a suit for the big day that he could also wear to interviews later. Dyksterhouse said she and her husband David did something similar. "You don't want to put out \$125 for a tux you'll wear once," she said. Bridesmaid dresses should also be versatile, Dyksterhouse said, so the bridesmaids can wear them to parties or church afterward. Some brides even choose a color for the dresses then allow the bridesmaids to pick what style they want so they will be sure to like their dresses and wear them again.
- 3. Keep up with schoolwork:** College takes priority, so studying for that exam trumps shopping for wedding napkins. Rucinski said she did a lot of planning over the summer when she wasn't in school, so she could better focus on homework once college started again. But in the end, a wedding is a one-day deal, and college is something people work at for four years. "If you plan this great wedding and flunk out of school," Dyksterhouse said sarcastically, "that's an awesome way to start your marriage."
- 4. Get crafty:** Weddings can be ridiculously expensive, and college budgets and student loans don't leave room for buying designer centerpieces. Instead of buying a veil for \$100, buy a few yards of tulle for \$10 and sew one. Or, like Dyksterhouse, go without one and save more money. Rucinski said she made her own invitations and did her own calligraphy on her envelopes. She found fabric to match her colors, sewed her own ring-bearer pillow and made flowers out of coffee filters for her centerpieces. Rucinski said she wanted her wedding to be "cheap but elegant."
- 5. Do what you want, not what tradition prescribes:** A wedding is about the bride and groom, not all the people who have ever gotten married before them. Rucinski said she and Garrett wrote their own vows in the form of a prayer instead of the traditional repeating of vows. They also chose to forgo unity candles in lieu of using a unity cross because, she said, "Marriage isn't just about us." For their exit from the ceremony, the two decided to give the guests kazoos instead of bubbles or rice because they are a musical couple. Above all else, they wanted their special day to reflect their personality, she said.
- 6. Remember the purpose:** Getting married isn't just about the wedding. It's about the marriage that follows. "It's not worth freaking out about," Dyksterhouse said. "It's just a one day thing." So if everything isn't perfect, Dyksterhouse said, friends and family will not even care. It's about the relationship between the bride and the groom, not how well the ribbons on the arch match the bouquets. "We don't need to impress them with how beautiful our wedding is. We just want them to be able to share in this special day and keep us accountable." In the end, a wedding is merely the beginning of a lifelong partnership. "If you end up getting married," Rucinski said, "the wedding was a success."



"Getting married isn't just about the wedding. It's about the marriage that follows."

Together Again in Cedarville

While Joe Hepworth serves a year in Afghanistan, Karley finishes her degree

by Bekah Cvetich

Surviving senior year is a feat by itself. But Karley Hepworth has been doing so while having a husband deployed in Afghanistan.

Hepworth, whose husband Joe recently came back from a one-year deployment in Afghanistan on April 1, returned this year for her senior year at Cedarville after five years away. She attended Cedarville from 2004-2006 but couldn't finish her senior year because of money issues. That changed when her husband, a 2006 Cedarville graduate, volunteered for deployment.

"It was always the plan that while he was on deployment, if the timing worked out, I would go back to school," Hepworth said. "When he got his orders, we saw they were from March to March and I said, 'You think God's trying to tell us that this is what he wants?'"

Joe said he volunteered for deployment so he could provide for his wife. The two had moved to Indiana after he completed four years of ROTC and graduated, but they struggled to find work.

Joe got laid off and was unemployed when his executive officer got tapped to go on deployment. But the officer had a civilian job, so Joe offered to switch with him.

The decision was difficult because they understood the sacrifices, Karley said, but Joe was tired of only training and wanted to begin active army duty.

"We had a long talk about it," she said. "He told me, 'This is a way for me to provide for my family. It's not fun, but this is my responsibility as the head of the household.'"

So Joe left for Afghanistan on March 31, 2011, to be stationed as a liaison officer overseeing \$2 billion worth of inventory at a national supply depot in Kabul. His absence forced Karley to learn the lifestyle of a military wife.

"When we got married, I had no idea about military life," Karley said. "I never pictured myself as an army wife. People say that when it comes to military wives, ordinary women need not apply. I like to think that military life turns ordinary women into extraordinary women."

Karley said she had to learn how not to need her husband for everything. She had to "hold down the home front" by cooking, cleaning and managing the budget by herself.

"It was not always an easy lesson to learn, but it was a good forced lesson not to need my husband," Karley said. "The only person that I absolutely need is God, but it is very easy to think that I need my husband. If he is not there to fulfill that want that I think I need him to



Courtesy of Joe and Karley Hepworth

Joe and Karley Hepworth were married five years ago, and Karley said they grew in their marriage more than ever during the past year of Joe's deployment to Afghanistan.

fulfill, then I can either choose to fill that need with God or choose to try to fill that with my own desires."

She also learned how to trust God with her husband's life in the military, she said, because he was in a constant state of danger.

"Every time I rode outside, I was on a constant adrenaline high," Joe said.

"I thought, today might be the day when Karley gets a knock on the door from an officer in uniform with a death certificate."

But Karley said she found comfort in the

fact that God was sovereign over the situation.

"I had to learn that no matter what happened, God let it happen," Karley said. "No matter what happens to him, if he ever died, he would be in heaven. He would be in the absolute best place he could be. That was huge for me."

Even though she understood that God was watching over her husband in Afghanistan, Karley said that missing him weighed heavily on her. She said they sometimes were able to talk on Facebook chat, the phone, or Skype if they were lucky, but it wasn't the same as having him there.

"The loneliness really hit me hard ... there have been some very hard days," Karley said. "During the last few weeks of Joe's deployment, my emotional and mental stamina ran out. The weariness and fatigue hit me so hard. I was teetering very close to falling into depression."

While she had friends who were supportive, Karley said other people often contributed to her despair and sense of hopelessness by saying the U.S. shouldn't even have troops in Afghanistan.

"It's disheartening, because it seems like they're saying, 'Your husband has no point in being there.' So I had to fight this prevailing spirit of no point ... like what is the point of him being there?" Karley said. "But God has taught me that it doesn't matter the political situation anyways, because if my husband completes his job in a way that glorifies God and pleases God and fulfills God's purpose for him, it doesn't matter what happens to earth. When he gets to heaven, that will be eternal, and God will look at him and say, 'Well done.'"

Understanding God's purpose for Joe was key in surviving the time without him, Karley said.

"I find comfort in the fact that he is fulfilling God's purpose, and I want to support that. Sometimes I had no idea what that is; he's thousands of miles away on the other side of

"I had to learn that no matter what happened, God let it happen. No matter what happens to him, if he ever died, he would be in heaven. He would be in the absolute best place he could be. That was huge for me."

Karley Hepworth

the world with limited communication. I don't know the point, but it doesn't matter. God forbid that I should ever get angry over that."

Karley said focusing on her schoolwork helped her through many of the rough patches, although it was a challenge to adjust to being a student again. Figuring out how to function in an academic environment after five years and getting dropped back into senior level classes has been time-consuming, she said.

"School has been really good because it has kept my mind busy," Karley said. "One of the biggest challenges for military wives is to keep yourself occupied and not give yourself time to dwell on the situation because it is so easy to start thinking about how bad the situation is and falling into self-pity."

Knowing that her husband was supporting her in her academic endeavors has helped her push through, she said.

"Joe wants to see me graduate. He is supporting me 100 percent, and if I had no other reason to graduate, it would be to make him proud."

And Joe has admired her hard work and desire to return to Cedarville.

"I was so proud of her for going back," he said. "She earned a 4.0 last semester, and I was flabbergasted. I was just so pleased with how well she applied herself."

Both Joe and Karley said that, while his deployment was difficult, they are glad it happened.

"During this deployment, we have grown more than I think we did in five years of marriage," Karley said. "It is pretty safe to say that we have never grown more in our walk with God, in our personal character, or in our marriage than during this time."

Joe returned from Afghanistan on April 1 and has been working on reintegrating into American life, Karley said.

"When you're in combat, you are in a high

"I can talk to her and tell her exactly what is on my mind — what made me act or feel that way — and she can better pray for me."

Joe Hepworth

state of alert 24/7 every single moment of the day," she said. "There's no constant danger here, so he doesn't have to be on the alert."

This has made even simple tasks like shopping difficult for Joe. When he went to Aldi's for groceries, Joe said he was overwhelmed by the amount of people moving around in the store and everything in the aisles.

"I'm so used to tracking every person and knowing what they're doing at all times," Joe said. "I'm used to wearing armor, a helmet, and carrying a load of ammo and two weapons. Without those, I went into a panic attack."

Though getting used to civilian life has been challenging, Joe said his wife has been supportive through the whole process.

"I can talk to her and tell her exactly what is on my mind — what made me act or feel that way — and she can better pray for me," Joe said. "She's been understanding. She has been very, very kind and gracious and very loving about this whole deal."

Joe also said it has been interesting for him and Karley to get to know each other again after being apart for so long.

"I was over there, she was over here, and she was changing a bit as a person day by day, and I was changing too," Joe said. "We weren't there to see those changes and adapt to them. That's a challenge, but we've learned to just be honest and open about what we're feeling and thinking."

Karley admitted that the adaptation process has not been easy for her — she said she has to remember that Joe needs time to rest, even though she often wants to make plans.

"It's a lot of learning to set aside your own wants and needs and to focus on his," she said. "To not ask myself, 'What are we going to do today?' The biggest question to always ask is, 'How can I love him the most today?'"

Looking back on the whole experience, Karley said she feels more confident about being a military wife and trusting God for her husband's calling into the army.

"I would do it again in a heartbeat," she said. "Not right now, I want a bit of time with my husband, but if it happens again it won't be this big horrible thing. Because when he puts on that uniform, he is 100 percent himself. He stands straighter, he talks more confidently, walks more confidently ... one look at him and I can see that he is in the role that God has called him to."

While she said she'd be willing to do it all over again, Karley said having Joe home now is a blessing she knows not to take for granted.

"It is wonderful having him around again, because while he was gone, something I struggled with was feeling like half of me was gone," Karley said. "The wiser, cleverer, smarter part of me was thousands of miles away in the middle of a combat zone. Now that he is back, I feel complete again."



Courtesy of Joe and Karley Hepworth

Joe Hepworth (second from right) volunteered for deployment and worked as a liaison officer overseeing \$2 billion worth of inventory at a supply depot in Kabul. Joe returned on April 1 and will get to see his wife Karley graduate from Cedarville. Joe graduated from Cedarville in 2006.

Running Toward London 2012

Two Cedarville graduates place in top 25 at Olympic marathon trials

by John Filcik

Two former Cedarville runners finished in the top 25 at the U.S. Olympic marathon trials on Jan. 14 in Houston, Texas. The runners, Erin Nehus-Vergara and Sergio Reyes, both credit their success in some part to the preparation they received at Cedarville.

Nehus-Vergara placed 23 out of 152 women with a time of 2:37:06. Reyes placed 25 out of 85 men with a time of 2:14:41. Only the top three runners in each race were awarded spots on the team representing the U.S. in the London Olympic games this summer.

A 2003 Cedarville graduate, Nehus-Vergara was competing in her first U.S. Olympic trial and only her second marathon. She described the race as unique because of the level of talent of the participants.

"Because you're going against the top professionals in the country," Nehus-Vergara said, "it's the most competitive race that you'll ever be a part of. Everyone in that field has to qualify just to be there, and those qualifying marks are really tough to get."

Nehus-Vergara normally runs the 5k and 10k events, and seeing as this was only her second marathon, she came into the race with little pressure as an underdog.

"I look at it in a positive way," Nehus-Vergara said. "I didn't see myself as getting into the trials in the first place, so it was a blessing."

A part-time physical therapist in Indianapolis, Nehus-Vergara said her job fits nicely around her daily running workouts. She said she is thankful for her Cedarville roots and the preparation she gained from Cedarville's cross country and track programs.

"The coaches and the whole program didn't just focus on you as an athlete," Nehus-Vergara said. "They focused on developing you spiritually and using your God-given talent to be a witness to others."

While at Cedarville, Nehus-Vergara led

the Lady Jackets cross country team to an NAIA national championship. As an individual, she was NCCAA national champion in 2001. Between track and cross-country, Nehus-Vergara was a nine-time NAIA All-American.

Reyes, also a 2003 Cedarville graduate, competed in the 2008 Olympic marathon trials as well, describing the Olympic trials as being a very distinctive race.

"The thing that's so special about the Olympic trials is that this is where we're determining our Olympians – this one race," Reyes said. "The race consists of the top Americans that the country has to offer. So it's exciting in that regard just because of the sense of the accomplishment that everybody realizes and respects that it takes to get there."

Reyes described how he felt before, during and after the race. "Going into a race [like the trials] I'm pretty excited," Reyes said. "I can't wait to see what God has in store for me. During the race, usually it's all about trying to manage your energy and using it when you need it most."

The last few miles of any marathon are the hardest, Reyes said, and at the trials he said he definitely lost momentum going into the final stretch of the race.

Though he didn't make the Olympic team, Reyes left with hope for when he competes in the trials again in four years.

"You know I never put limits on what God can do for me on any given day," Reyes said. "I always consider the possibility [of making the Olympic team]. Realistically, if you had to ask me if I have a better chance now or four years from now, I'm probably going to say four years from now."

"I've seen improvement in this event, which is the important part, and if I stick with it, I think I can get down there to that range where I can dip into that top three spots in four years," Reyes said.

Reyes lives in California where he works as

an engineer, attends grad school and maintains his professional running career. On a typical day, Reyes runs at five in the morning and again in the afternoon after work. Depending on what stage of marathon training he is in, Reyes totals between 80 and 150 miles per week.

Transferring to Cedarville from a community college in California, Reyes soon came to be an important member of the track and cross-country programs. While at Cedarville, Reyes became the NCCAA cross-country national champion and was an eight-time NAIA All-American. Reyes still holds school records in the indoor 5k as well as the outdoor 5k and 10k.

He credits the Cedarville program with teaching him about more than just running, though.

"The best way that Cedarville prepared me for running outside of college was the sense of purpose and the reason for why I run that got established early on at Cedarville," Reyes said. "I knew that I could use this sport to honor God."

Even though Cedarville didn't win all the time, Reyes said everyone knew they were there for more than just to win.

As far as the Olympics go, Reyes has goals for when the trials roll around again in four years. Being on the Olympic team has been a dream since he was a kid.

"As soon as I can remember starting running, there was a point when I was watching the Olympic events that I knew I wanted to be at one day," Reyes said. "Yeah, I have the dream."

"Am I the only one with the dream? No. A lot of people have been dreaming about the Olympics for a long time, too. So is my dream better than theirs because it's stronger? Is it going to drive me to new heights? I don't know, but it's something that I've always wanted since I was a kid. I'll just take the ability as far as it will go, and I'll be content with it."

American Athletes at the 2012 Games

Meb Keflezighi

Sport: Marathon

Age: 36

Home: Moved from Eritrea at age 12 and now lives in California

Keflezighi became the oldest man ever to win the U.S. Olympic marathon trials. He captured the silver medal for the U.S. in 2004 in Athens. When questioned about his age, Keflezighi simply said, "Age is a number."

Michael Phelps

Sport: Swimming

Age: 26

Home: Maryland

Phelps became the most successful Olympian in 2008, capturing eight gold medals. A repeat performance is in question. Phelps will have to go up against reigning world champion Ryan Lochte in two events in which Phelps is reigning Olympic champion.

Mariel Zagunis

Sport: Fencer

Age: 27

Home: Oregon

Zagunis won the gold medal for fencing in Athens in 2004, becoming the first American to win the gold in over 100 years. She followed it up with another gold in Beijing and is currently the reigning world champion. This summer, the world will see if she can go three for three.

Sources: USAToday.com, SportsIllustrated.com, MarielZagunis.com

London 2012

July 27- August 12

By The Numbers

28

Sports

200

Countries Represented

17,000

Athletes

20,000

Journalists to Cover the Event

83,000

People Involved in Staging the Games

500,000

Spectators

9 Million

Tickets Expected to be Sold

Source: City-of-London.com



Photo by Istockphoto.com

Swing Vote Key for Health Care

Four Supreme Court justices in favor of Obama's plan, four against and one undecided

by Mary Miller

The Supreme Court heard six hours of oral arguments on President Obama's health care bill in late March. Numerous cases have been brought against the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act because of its mandate that requires individuals have their own health insurance.

While opponents of the bill argue that Congress and the president have overstepped their bounds, proponents say that Congress is well within its power granted by the Commerce Clause of the Constitution. The Supreme Court will issue its final decision in June.

Will Vote to Overturn

John G. Roberts (Chief Justice)

Appointed by: President George W. Bush in 2005

Background: Looking at the previous lower court rulings on this case, judges have voted according to their political affiliation. With few exceptions, every federal justice appointed by a Republican president has ruled against Obama's health care bill in some form. On the other hand, judges appointed by a Democratic president have overwhelmingly voted to uphold the bill.

Antonin Scalia

Appointed by: President Ronald Reagan in 1986

Background: "If Scalia can be peeled off, he may vote to uphold the law," said Marc Clauson of Cedarville's history and government department. "Not because he likes it but because of his deference to a legislature and desire for a political, democratic solution. Scalia might break with the conservatives, but my gut says he will not do that."

Clarence Thomas

Appointed by: President George H. W. Bush in 1991

Background: Thomas is considered a safe vote for conservatives against the bill. According to the "American Bar Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases," 100 percent of experts polled believe that Thomas will vote to overturn the health care bill due to its unconstitutionality.

Samuel Anthony Alito, Jr.

Appointed by: George W. Bush in 2006

Projected vote: Vote to overturn

Background: Described by the Cato Institute as a conservative jurist with a "libertarian streak," Alito is expected to vote that the Affordable Care Act and its "individual mandate" are unconstitutional.

Will Vote to Uphold

Stephen G. Breyer

Appointed by: President Bill Clinton in 1994

Background: Breyer has consistently voted to support Federalism over state's rights. In the U.S. vs. Lopez case of 1995, the Supreme Court affirmed a Court of Appeals decision. The case related to Congress' ability to declare that having firearms in schools was illegal, which the court declared to be out of reach of the



Interstate Commerce clause of the Constitution. Breyer wrote the dissenting opinion, arguing that the Commerce Clause includes the power to regulate local activities so long as they "significantly affect" interstate commerce. The health care bill deals with a similar argument regarding the Commerce Clause, and based on his logic, Breyer is expected to vote to uphold the bill.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Appointed by: President Bill Clinton in 1993

Background: Ginsburg is easily considered the most liberal judge on the Supreme Court. There is no doubt that she will vote to uphold the President's bill. "I do believe the rest of the conservatives will stay together, as will the liberals," Clauson said.

Sonia Sotomayor

Appointed by: President Barack Obama in 2009

Background: As the first justice appointed by Obama, Sotomayor has reliably supported liberal viewpoints in her short time on the bench. Since the health care bill has been such a mainstay of Obama's administration, she is expected to vote in its favor.

Elena Kagan

Appointed by: President Barack Obama in 2010

Background: While Congress passed the Affordable Care Act, it is mainly considered to

be the president's bill. This puts the Supreme Court in the position directly in opposition of the president.

Some of the judges are more concerned about doing battle with the president, especially since this particular court has never had to do so before. Kagan definitely could be considered one of those judges, and as she was appointed by the president, this puts her in an awkward position. Therefore, Kagan is expected to vote in favor of Obama's health care act.

Undecided

Anthony Kennedy

Appointed by: President Ronald Reagan in 1988

Background: Kennedy has the most debated opinion of all the justices on the case. Considered by many to be unpredictable, he has been known to side with liberals or conservatives on controversial issues.

"He takes a case by case look at things as they come up before him, as opposed to having a consistent judicial philosophy," said Professor Mark Smith, director of Cedarville's Center for Political Studies. "Kennedy doesn't have a firm view of how the Constitution should be interpreted, which makes him a wild card."

Based on the case of *Bond vs. United States* in 2011, where Justice Kennedy wrote the majority opinion arguing for state's rights, it can be argued that he will vote against the bill.

Job Market for Grads Improving

by Hayley Johnson

A large increase in companies and organizations hiring college graduates is helping Cedarville University seniors and other graduates across the nation find jobs.

According to a survey conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), hiring in 2012 is expected to climb to 10.2 percent, which is above the previous estimate of 9.5 percent.

Another study done by Phil Gardner, the director of research at the Collegiate Employment Research Institute, revealed that of 3,231 employers surveyed, 42 percent said they had definite plans to hire college graduates.

The results of the NACE survey showed that demand is highest for business, engineering and computer science majors.

Aron Flaming, a Cedarville mechanical engineering major, got his dream job at a career fair that was held at Cedarville earlier this year. Before the fair he sent his resume in, so the personnel who had been sent to represent their respective companies could view it.

"I went to the fair with the idea that I would be exploring what options were available to me," Flaming said. "I had no idea I would walk away with a job."

One of the companies represented at the fair was Cummins, which is a global leader in designing and manufacturing service engines and other technologies such as fuel systems and electrical power generation systems.

Flaming had an interview with the representative and received a call later that day saying that the company was offering him a job.

"It was a fast process, but I landed a job in the exact field I wanted to be in," Flaming said. It was always his desire to work with both titanium and cars, and he will have the opportunity to do just that by designing turbo chargers.

Students from majors outside of engineering and business are also finding prospects available for them to pursue.

Chris Flynn, a psychology major, has a promising opportunity at Reynolds and Reynolds, a company that works to provide web solutions, consulting and documents to help auto dealers drive profitability.

"I found out about the job through Cedarville's career site Jobs4Jackets," Flynn said.

He submitted an application and was sent a request to take an aptitude test, which was followed by four interviews with various personnel from the company.

"The people there have been fantastic to work with throughout this long interview process," Flynn said. He has not officially been offered the position but is hopeful that he will receive an offer from them soon. Through his experience, Flynn has learned a variety of important lessons about job hunting. One of them is that you have to send in many applications.

"You have to apply to a ton of places in order to get anything back," Flynn said. He sent

Job Market for College Grads	
Cedarville Class of 2011 Employment Statistics	National Employment Statistics
Employed (Six months after graduation)	A study by the Michigan State University Collegiate Employment Research Institute found the following:
68.7 percent	Employers who intend to hire
Enrolled in graduate school (Six months after graduation)	42 percent
25.1 percent	Employers who base salary at least partly on commission
Total employed or in graduate school	9 percent
93.8 percent	Employers who don't expect to increase salaries
	77 percent
	Employers who expect to offer signing bonuses
	5 percent
	Increase of hiring graduates with bachelor's degrees
	7 percent
Sources: Cedarville University Admissions Office, CBSNews.com	

in a total of 20 before getting pursued by Reynolds and Reynolds.

Another aspect Flynn feels that graduates should keep in mind is that they may have to take a job that does not line up perfectly with what they want to do.

"Where I am currently pursuing is not exactly what I was looking for, but it's pretty close as it is still in human services," Flynn said.

He had originally wanted a counselor or human resources position, and the job at Reynolds and Reynolds does not fall directly into either one of those categories. If he does get the job, Flynn will work to present Reynolds' solutions as viable options to potential customers and will drive to close sales.

Many students about to graduate from colleges around the nation are also finding opportunities within the current job market.

Yahoo! Finance ran a story earlier this month that profiled Sean Chua, a 21-year-old justice major about to graduate from American University. Chua's brother graduated in 2008 and struggled to find a job. Observing the process his brother went through made Chua worry about how his own job search would go.

Chua would soon realize he had nothing to worry about. After sending out only seven resumes, he received an offer from IBM to be an information technology consultant. He accepted the job and is excited to start there when he graduates.

However, competition for the available jobs is steep, and employers are reporting that they are receiving around 33 applications for every job posting. This is up from last year when only 21 applications were received per posting.

Gardner feels that there is a specific set of skills candidates must clearly show on the re-

sume to remain under consideration for a job opportunity.

"Companies need cross-disciplinary people who are T-shaped; no matter what your degree is, you need to be computer system-literate and able to communicate effectively," Gardner said.

Andrea Koncz, employment information manager for the NACE, agrees with Gardner but adds that "soft skills" and workplace aptitudes are essential. These aptitudes include leadership ability and the ability to work in a team.

"One of the best ways to demonstrate leadership skills is by describing successes in extracurricular activities or industry-related organizations," Koncz said.

Despite the levels of competition, there are many resources that students about to graduate can utilize to help them find a job.

One of the greatest resources students can turn to for help is the career services office. At the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, the career services office has seen a 7.4 percent increase in the number of interviews they are helping students get with potential employers.

Along with this, career fairs hosted by college campuses across the U.S. are proving to be a huge draw for companies eager to hire college graduates. The University of Florida held a fair in which attendance was up by 15 percent, forcing them to have to use both the first and second floors of the basketball facility for interviews for the first time in a number of years.

The University of California-Los Angeles has also seen an increase in both the number of interviews their career services office is generating and companies attending their career fairs.

"The economy is better, and the college recruitment market is improving," said Kathy Sims, director of career services at UCLA.

Cedarville Has Plan in Event of Shooting

by Zack Anderson

Campus shootings can happen anywhere, including at Cedarville, Campus Safety says.

"You can't have the ostrich mentality, and say, 'Aww, that's probably not going to happen here,'" says Douglas Chisholm, Cedarville's director of Campus Safety. "No, in this village here and at the university, we take it seriously."

And at least one shooting has happened at a Christian college. Less than a month ago, seven people died after a shooting at Oikos University in Oakland, Calif. Former student One Goh was arrested by police at a supermarket about an hour after the April 2 incident.

The shooting at Oikos, a small Christian college with a high Korean population, was the deadliest campus shooting since the 2007 shooting at Virginia Tech that killed 32 people. Oikos canceled classes until April 23.

Chisholm says the shooting at Oikos shows shootings are possible anywhere.

"I'm telling you, it can happen anywhere, anywhere," Chisholm says. "And that's why we take it seriously and have done a lot of response planning on this thing because no one's exempt."

That response planning includes a four-page PDF available on Campus Safety's website. Campus Safety does not publish its full plan for security issues, Chisholm said.

Though a plan is in place if a shooting were to happen at Cedarville, Chisholm said there is an intervention team combining Campus Safety, student services and sometimes the Cedarville police department that deals with issues with students or staff before they lead to violence.

A possible issue could be someone making a statement that could be considered threatening.

"That's not something you just let sit there," Chisholm says. "You get on it right away, and you have an intervention."

Chris Gillaugh, chief of the Cedarville Police Department, says one example of this type of situation is when a student threatened to

hack into his professor's computer and melt it down because he received a bad grade.

"Basically we ended up finding out that the information was accurate and took action against the student," Gillaugh says.

Other universities have similar intervention teams. Virginia Tech's threat assessment team, created in 2007 after the shooting, meets weekly, according to an article in The Roanoke Times. The team looks at up to 350 cases annually, over half of which are resolved in a few months.

Virginia Tech's admissions department is also involved in threat assessment at the university. They evaluate up to 23,000 applications annually by comparing them with sex offender registries and looking for potential problems. Some information, such as involvement with theft, drugs, firearms and assault, halts the application progress, and only the director of admissions can start it again, The Roanoke Times reports.

Chisholm is on a committee reevaluating Cedarville's admissions application. The committee is looking at questions about whether applicants have ever been convicted of felonies or been disciplined in high school or at another college.

"The option to do a background check if you see red flags is being discussed," Chisholm says.

If Cedarville's intervention team does not prevent a shooting, Chisholm says Campus Safety would notify the campus via email, phone and text message using their mass notification system.

"Our system generally sends a message out within 2-3 minutes," Chisholm says. "It goes out to everyone that signed up, and of course, even those that don't sign up, they're with people that hear about it."

Immediately after there is a report that someone on campus has a firearm, the Cedarville police department, the county sheriff's department and other teams head to Cedarville, Chisholm said.

He said the campus would go into lockdown. This means everyone would be told to

barricade themselves in a room and stay there until told otherwise. Both interior and exterior doors of buildings would be locked.

According to the lockdown protocol document on Campus Safety's website, law enforcement is responsible for locating, containing and stopping the shooter. Campus Safety is responsible for communicating with law enforcement, notifying the campus, helping to establish a command center and barricading campus entrances.

Gillaugh says law enforcement did not always go into the building where shooters were located and try to stop them. According to the Denver Post, law enforcement's goal at the 1999 Columbine High School shooting was to contain the shooters.

Gillaugh says this has changed, with law enforcement now focusing on stopping the threat. He says the first officer at a shooting at Cedarville would try to draw the shooter to him.

"We're not going in to try to shake hands and be good guys," Gillaugh says. "Because obviously already they've probably shot some people, and we're going in to get rid of the problem."

Gillaugh says statistics show that once law enforcement arrives, the shooter will either take their own life or surrender.

Chisholm says Campus Safety is tentatively looking to hold a mock shooting drill in the fall, where Campus Safety, the Cedarville Police Department and other departments would respond as if there were a shooter on campus. The drill is in the planning and approval stages.

Chisholm said the whole county would be involved if a shooting were to happen at Cedarville and that he wants the whole county to be involved in the drill.

"You can have your own little campus drill, and I'm not saying that that's bad, but I think the more agencies you can involve, the more realistic it's going to be," Chisholm said. "Because you're not going to do this alone. This campus would be swarming, just swarming with people."

What To Do During A Shooting

Secure the immediate area, whether a classroom, residence hall room or office.

- If able, lock or barricade the door. Block the door using whatever is available, such as desks, tables, file cabinets, other furniture and books.
- After securing the door, stay behind solid objects away from the door as much as possible.
- If an assailant enters your room and leaves, lock or barricade the door behind them.
- If safe to do so, allow others to seek refuge with you.
- Avoid hiding in restrooms, as they typically cannot be secured.

Take actions to reduce your vulnerability.

- Close blinds.
- Block windows.
- Turn off radios and computers.
- Silence cell phones.
- Place signs in exterior windows to identify your location and the location of injured people.
- Keep people calm and quiet.
- Do not sound the fire alarms. This may cause others to flee the buildings and put them at risk.

Source: Adapted from Campus Safety's website

Analysis: As Far as They Know

How Occupiers and Real-Life Superheroes Labor Under Intellectual Bankruptcy

by Lucas Zellers

There are those who dress up as superheroes, and then there are those who live like them.

The Real-Life Superhero Movement is a loose-knit network of individuals who don costumes and patrol their neighborhood to prevent crime. It began with the World Superhero Registry, a website which standardized the requirements and methodology for those who wished “to do good deeds and fight crime while in costume.” It gained national attention and a figurehead when Ben Fodor, better known as Phoenix Jones – “the guardian of Seattle” – was covered by ABC’s *Good Morning America* in January. Light-hearted morning show repartee became a serious issue when Fodor was arrested in October on assault charges for pepper-spraying a group of people he claimed were fighting in the streets.

A parallel movement was the Occupy protests, which dominated the news cycle throughout the fall of 2011. In most basic terms, it was a large group of people who crowded a public place for an extended period of time. It began with a blog post on *Ad Busters*, a not-for-profit magazine and blog for “culture jammers and creatives,” and subsequently with the occupation of Zucotti Park in 2011. Inspired by the protests at Egypt’s Tahrir Square that eventually brought down dictator Hosni Mubarak, the post called for a peaceful occupation of Wall Street, with a simplistic message endlessly repeated: “Democracy not corporatocracy.” That single protest became a nation-wide movement with seemingly as many ideological

the status quo in ways that were unique and impossible to ignore – but difficult to reconcile.

It’s easy to find out when these movements began, but a far more worthwhile question to ask is, why? The progression is easy to follow. As the Internet becomes ubiquitous, the erosion of the normal deliberative spaces that usually define democracy leaves people with a weakening sense of political efficacy. Civic-mindedness without a civic education leaves them with little understanding of the realities of the political system they seek to improve. The preeminence of superheroes in popular culture makes the idea of a vigilante above the law and the political system seem normal and acceptable, besides being intrinsically appealing. The tongue-in-cheek meta-narrative that evolved when the hero-squashes-villain formula could no longer satisfy a media-savvy populace moves the superhero from Superman’s realm of idealistic fantasy into Batman’s portrayal of gritty reality.

Finally, the ability to recreate one’s identity endlessly on the Internet makes it commonplace to

step into a new persona – like, for example, that of costumed crime-fighter or revolutionary activist Occupier. Both ideas were fueled by the common threads of dissatisfaction and desperation, the mob mentality, postmodern disregard

for ideological detraction, the martyr effect, and yes, media hype.

Fox News covered the RLSH movement as far back as 2008, when they interviewed Jack Brinatte, aka *RazorHawk*, a real-life superhero working in Minneapolis. It was as entertaining



Photo courtesy of reallifesuperheroes.org

as morning news shows can be, until the hosts asked Brinatte about his mask. “The mask is a little extra that your producers asked for today,” Brinatte said politely, before going on to discuss how his costume marks him in a memorable way for people curious about his mission and motives.

A mask is good television, even if it does add a flair for the sensationalistic – but it’s doubtful that the producers would have liked him to say that. The Occupy movement was often accused of receiving coverage disproportionate to their size and perhaps their importance, depending on who did the accusing.

The problem for both movements is they took as their ultimate inspiration ideas that represent intellectual bankruptcy. Tahrir Square was an act of desperation from a people afforded no other outlet by their oppressive government. Superhero literature at its best is a venue for sound-byte philosophy without the necessity of practical application in the real world.

Superheroes exist in a world of cowardly and superstitious criminals, skeptical police, an over-active military, sinister and burly muggers around every dark corner, earth-shattering crises about every other day, and supervillains with schemes of global subjugation annihilation. A guarantee of economic equality only exists in the type of utopia that guided the goals of the Quakers, the Oneida project, and even Karl Marx – and frankly, compared to the circumstances that prompted Tahrir Square, America doesn’t have it that bad.

Phoenix Jones said it best. “I have two kids,” he told ABC News in January of 2010. “I always tell them the same thing every time before I go on patrol: ‘This is the only thing daddy could think of to make the world better for you guys, and I’ll see you when I get home.’”

All of it adds up to a whole lot of people doing what they think is right, as far as they know. Unfortunately, that just isn’t very far.



Photo courtesy of stuff.co.nz

goals as there are cities to occupy.

Spend any length of time researching the Real-Life Superhero movement or the Occupy protests, and you can’t help but feel the onset of a curious detachment. In each case, dissatisfied and highly motivated people challenged

Editor's Picks

Music

Gillian Welch

This here isn't your grandmother's country music, folks. Or your local radio station's. Or whatever that annoying girl who lives down the hall is listening to at 3 in the morning, which sounds like what KFC would sound like if it ... sounded like ... something.

The point is Gillian Welch represents the genre at its finest — unplugged, unadorned, unapologetic and unbelievable.

First achieving fame after contributing to the award-winning soundtrack to the Coen Brother's film "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" Welch quickly garnered an audience with her folksy voice, poetic lyrics and versatile, evocative style that is at the same time traditional and utterly original. The multi-talented Ms. Welch switches easily from vocals to banjo, harmonica and drums, and her partner Dave Rawlings is nothing short of miraculous on the guitar.



Patti Smith

The uncontested godmother of punk, Ms. Smith made it cool for girls to rock hard, belt out the tunes and not care what their hair looks like. Her unique sound perfectly blends '80s punk rock with highly spiritual — if often ambiguous — lyrics, and her rebellious attitude provides a genuine wakeup call to what's wrong with our culture.

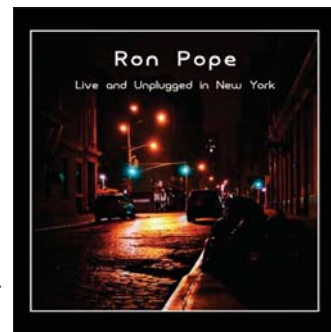
The perfect introduction to Smith's oeuvre is the recently-released album "Outside Society," which compiles remastered versions of hits spanning her decades-long career. It's the perfect soundtrack to those angsty montages you make in your head while walking to your morning classes.

Ron Pope

Ron Pope's voice sounds like the voice of John Mayer and Jason Mraz's talented lovechild. His albums boast his prolific songwriting skills, beautiful ballads and mad guitar skills. He co-wrote the song "A Drop in the Ocean," which was popular in 2006, though he hasn't since gotten the attention he deserves for his solo work. His lyrics and music are inspiring, and his tunes make the perfect playlist for studying ... or pretending to study.

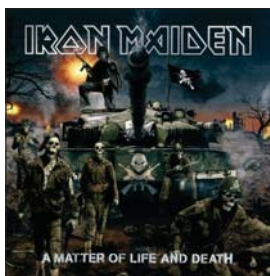
The Water and the Blood

Sojourn Community Church released this album of re-invented Isaac Watts hymns last year though it remains relatively unknown. This bluesy, folksy, alternative rock rendition of some of Watts' richest lyrics is a refreshing spin on worship music. Buy it, and listen to it on repeat; it will feed your soul.



Iron Maiden: 'A Matter of Life and Death'

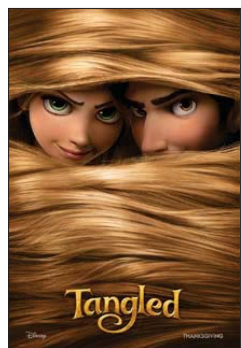
Maiden's 2006 album "A Matter of Life and Death" lives up to its title by providing existential insight in a variety of issues. In the album's most poignant track, "For the Greater Good of God," bandleader Steve Harris beautifully juxtaposes humanity's self-inflicted suffering with divine purposes, concluding that Christ's once-for-all death should initiate a response of peace. Other songs such as "These Colours Don't Run," "The Pilgrim" and "The Longest Day" also address the universals of war and religion, and the band executes its intricate and enjoyable compositions to perfection. Bruce "The Air Raid Siren" Dickinson provides powerfully pristine vocals while the guitar trio of Dave Murray, Adrian Smith and Janick Gers invigorates the album with their melodic mastery. For fans of momentous music, philosophers and anyone who can appreciate excellency, Iron Maiden's "A Matter of Life and Death" truly strikes a chord (or several). Up the Irons!



Other

'Tangled'

Tangled tells the story of Rapunzel, complete with an evil witch mother, surprisingly enjoyable tunes and — like every good Disney musical —



comic relief from a charming animal sidekick, this time in the form of the chameleon Pascal. Spend some time with a younger sibling and make a night of watching this movie. For the sibling-less — make a night of it anyway.

iProcrastinate

iProcrastinate is a Mac OS X and iOS app for managing homework. It allows you to create classes, add homework assignments with due dates and check them off when they are done. A compulsive organizer, I challenged myself this semester to go paperless in keeping track of my life, and iProcrastinate has helped me do just that.

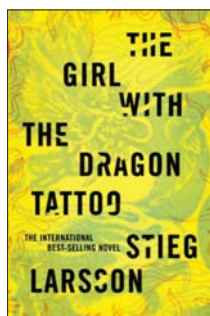


Books

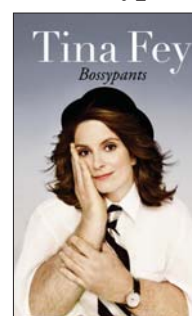
'The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo' by Stieg Larsson

The first in Stieg Larsson's Millennium Trilogy tells a story of a young girl on the margins of society who gets entangled with a convicted investigative journalist, helping him solve a mystery

decades old. The book is disturbing: it is a forceful reminder of the depravity of man. But if you can stomach it, you won't want to put it down.



'Bossypants' by Tina Fey



Buckle down for a belly full of laughs. Follow Tina Fey through her awkward adolescent years into adulthood as she recounts every embarrassing blunder she's ever made. This is not a book of autobiographical horn tooting but rather a manifesto of self-deprecating jokes that might make you pee your pants a little.

'Areopagitica'

Bet you didn't know that we owe the entire establishment of our free press to a man with hair that looks like ramen. That's because John Milton, Mr. Noodle-hair himself, penned the seminal political tract "Areopagitica," which set down the principle of the market place of ideas. Milton's key argument is that we should not apply censorship but instead should throw truth into a cage match with falsehood and let it all fight to the death. So it's basically like the "Hunger Games" but in powdered wigs and knee pants. May the odds be ever in your favor — Huzzah!

Movie Review: 'October Baby'

by Lindsay McGee

Faith films are on the rise," said up-and-coming Hollywood filmmaker Jon Erwin in a recent interview with Urban Christian News. Jon and Andrew Erwin are two Christian filmmaking brothers who teamed up to embark on the challenging journey of directing their first feature film.

In their determination to tackle one of today's most controversial issues, the Erwin brothers unravel the poignant story of a young woman who is brought face-to-face with the hidden truth of her past: she is an abortion survivor. On March 23, the captivating true-life story "October Baby" was brought to the nationwide big screen, and its meaningful pro-life message is left to resonate among the deviating opinions of our culture.

The story begins by immediately placing viewers in the shoes of protagonist Hannah Lawson (Rachel Hendrix), a college freshman and aspiring actress. During her theatrical debut, Hannah suddenly collapses to the floor without warning. As she undergoes medical testing, one question leads to another as Hannah realizes the truth of her birth: she was adopted, and, as if that wasn't shocking enough, she barely survived an attempted abortion. In a disoriented haze of confusion and resentment, Hannah sets out to find closure. Her quest for identity is aided by her closest friend, Jason (Jason Burkey), who helps Hannah search for her birth mother (Shari Rigby). During this journey, Hannah wrestles with deep emotional wounds of rejection, betrayal and bitterness that lead her to discover the power of God's grace and forgiveness.

"I think the values of middle America have kind of been dismissed by Hollywood," Jon Erwin said in an interview with UCN, "and I think they are realizing now there's a huge market there because they are giving us a voice in films that we've never had before."

Under the artful direction of the Erwin brothers, this beautiful story dexterously interweaves striking moments of intensity with the realism of true events, the excitement of romance and young love, and a creative sprinkling of rich humor. For a film that is so



moving to also possess such vibrant qualities of humor is an impressive trait, not too commonly found in the film industry today. When interviewed by the Christian Broadcasting Network in regards to the film's humor, Andy Erwin remarked that "October Baby" is definitely a movie where you do laugh and you do cry. We wanted you to laugh as hard as you cry. It's such a heavy issue that it needed to be a charming coming-of-age love story."

For their very first feature-length film, the cinematography of the Erwin brothers was skillfully executed, and the casting was superb. The actors did a phenomenal job of bringing to life these believable characters, with true reactions to these difficult life experiences.

What is even more extraordinary about this film is that it is based on the true story

of the life of Gianna Jessen. Last October, Jessen touched Cedarville University with her vivacious presence and the heart-wrenching story of her birth and life as she spoke to the student body in chapel. She is a writer, a very talented singer, a national conference speaker, and an abortion survivor whose 17-year old mother attempted to terminate her 7-1/2 month pregnancy through a saline abortion.

When the Erwin brothers first heard Jessen speak, Andrew says that he and his brother were "broken and moved by her story." They did not even understand that there was such a thing as an abortion survivor. Jon added that "it is mind blowing to see the life in her [Gianna]."

"She has one of the most wonderful, lively spirits I've ever seen," Jon continued. "Above all else, I think that her life is beautiful. And it is a testament to the beauty of life in general, and to what the world would have lost if she had never been given the right to exist."

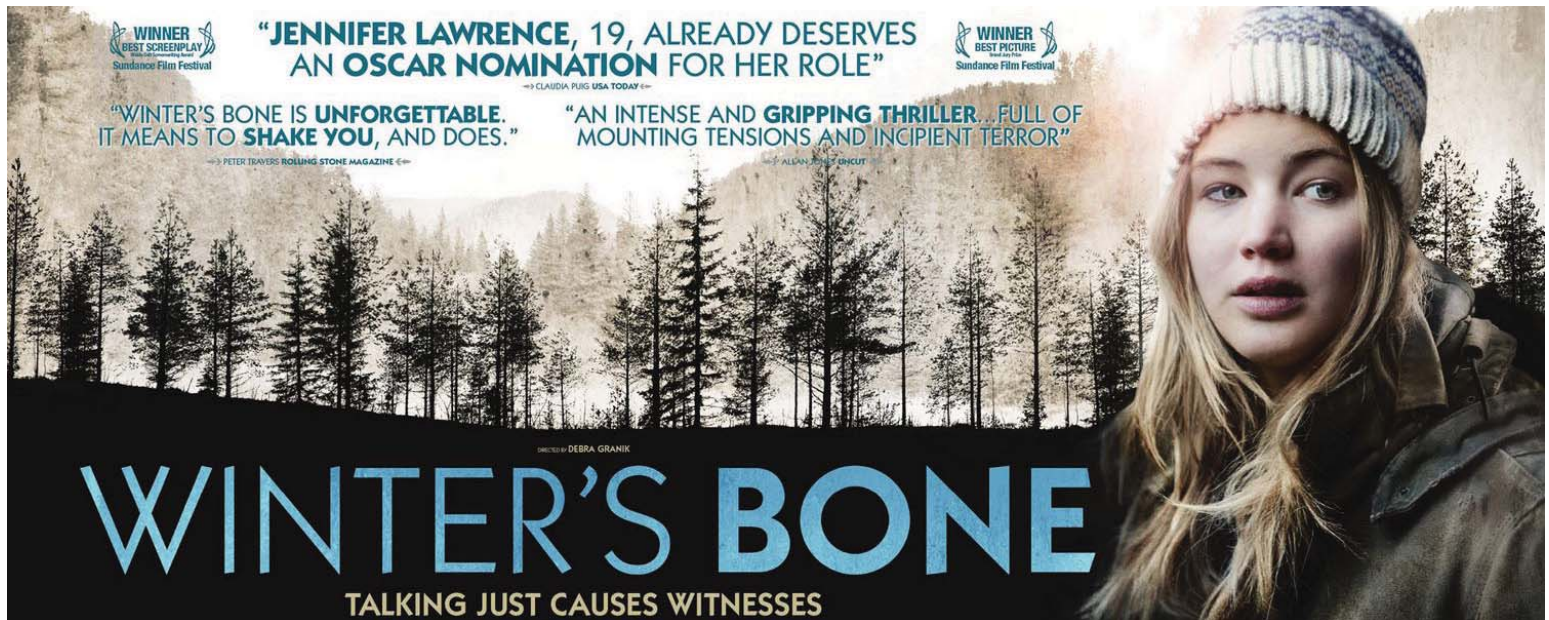
In an article by Charisma Media, Jessen expressed her strong hesitation to the Erwin's idea of producing the movie.

"I wanted nothing to do with this. I ran from these men," Jessen stated in the article. "It's hard to be defined by this one thing."

After watching a special preview of the film, Jessen at last became a full-fledged promoter of "October Baby." Not

only had she laughed and cried throughout the film, but she felt a powerful sense of healing by the time the credits rolled. The movie's soundtrack now features Jessen's original song "Ocean Floor." Jessen revealed that her road to healing has been marked by forgiveness and God's overwhelming love for her.

The two Erwin filmmakers proudly boast of their faith in Christ, but they hope "October Baby" will appeal to everyone, despite their religious beliefs or where they stand on the issue of abortion. Sherwood Pastor Michael Catt, whose church's film ministry produced "Fireproof" and "Courageous," advocates for the film: "This is the kind of movie our culture desperately needs. ... There is power in this movie that can only be explained by the hand of God upon it."



by Holly McClellan

Nothing cleanses the palate of Hollywood politics, substanceless plots and the endless stream of remakes and sequels like a good indie film.

Though released in 2010, one indie flick's been garnering some well-deserved attention. That's mainly because of its young star, the then-unknown Jennifer Lawrence. Lawrence's fame has recently skyrocketed because she beat out approximately every other girl in Hollywood (and, in their minds, just about every girl with a Tumblr) for the coveted role of Katniss Everdeen in the wildly popular "The Hunger Games" adaptation.

But before she was "the Girl on Fire," Jennifer Lawrence was Ree Dolly in "Winter's Bone," an unassuming little picture made for about \$2 million, filmed with a cast of relative unknowns and — oh yeah — garnered Lawrence (then just 19) a lead actress Oscar nomination.

The film itself, and the masterful Daniel Woodrell novel on which it is based, represent a burgeoning new genre known as "country noir." That may at first seem like an oxymoron, but anyone who's driven through unlit cornfields knows the sticks can be just as scary as the city — and often just as dangerous. That ominous backdrop provides the perfect setting for a tale shockingly stark and surprisingly beautiful.

In the film, 17-year-old Ree Dolly has been forced by harsh circumstances to raise her two younger siblings and her nearly-catatonic mother in the backwoods of the Ozark Mountains. But the real source of her trouble is her absent father, Jessup, renowned throughout those parts as a talented meth cook. It turns out most of the Dollys — a web of thinly spread "kin" where nearly everyone in the area has some blood between them — have a hand in the business: cooking it, selling it or snorting it from ubiquitous plastic baggies.

Except Ree, of course. In her own tough-as-nails, won't-take-nothing-off-of-nobody

way, she's the moral center of this tale, staying well above her family's nefarious business. But then the law shows up on her porch one morning, informing her that her father set their house and property — all the family has — up for his bond. If he doesn't show up for his court date, Ree and her family will be out in the cold. Thus begins Ree's utterly selfless, terrifying odyssey through the underground of hard-bitten drug dealers — people so eaten up with hate, stubbornness and distrust that they'd as soon shoot you where you stand as invite you in.

It's hard to believe, as Ree runs headfirst into seemingly insurmountable difficulties, that these people are, indeed, her family. But in their own way, the Dollys have their own twisted sort of loyalty. There's a line from the book that pretty much sums up the whole thing — as Ree drops her siblings off at school she tells them, "Don't fight if you can help it. But if one of you gets whipped by somebody, both of you best come home bloody, understand?"

That's sort of the code the Dollys — and their seemingly endless extended family — operate by: don't cause trouble (other than cooking meth, of course) unless someone makes trouble for you, and when that happens, woe to the man who doesn't come to his brother's aid.

Ree feels her way through where those lines are drawn, and in her effort to find her father, sometimes steps over them. Punishment is swift and brutal, but even a beating at the hands of her own kin can't keep her down. But after passing through some legitimately hellish days, Ree emerges triumphant — not though certainly not the way she (or the audience) expected.

There's a great deal to be learned here. On the whole, the current generation has been collectively coddled through adolescence to the point that we're treated like children — and allowed to act as such — long past the time when we're supposed to be adults.

Ree's forced to be an adult long before she should, shouldering the weight of both her sib-

lings and her mother. She's had to deal with a lot of things most of us will probably never know: near starvation, pervasive drug addiction, the ever-present reality of physical violence and sudden death. The end of the movie provides us with a little hope that Ree will escape these fates; she's got a good head on her shoulders, and she has a too firmly entrenched sense of responsibility to quit when the world offers an out. Ree is admirably tenacious, if at times misguided, and many would do well to learn from her.

It's interesting to think of what gets recognized as great acting these days. That's not to say Lawrence wasn't brilliant because she was — that and more. But what makes the performance remarkable is simply that it wasn't remarkable. Lawrence embodied Ree with a rather startling naturalism that relies on subtlety and nuance. Ree never seems like a character — she's a person. An exceptionally courageous person pushed to the absolute limits by extraordinary circumstances, but nevertheless a very real flesh-and-blood teenage girl dealing capably with things she never should be facing.

Which means she's certainly no saint. To a certain extent, Ree plays into her family's twisted sense of morals as much as the rest of them. But there's a fundamental decency about her — a sense of when enough is enough — that grounds the story and gives us hope for the future.

Many of the character's lives in *Winter's Bone* seem like cautionary tales of how not to live, but obviously it's not as simple as that. Much like the mystery of Jessup Dolly's disappearance, *Winter's Bone* provides more questions than answers. How should you act when the world seems stacked against you? How far should family loyalty stretch? When is it acceptable to be selfish? What things are you willing to give your life to save?

Intense, heart-wrenching and ultimately breathtaking, *Winter's Bone* is a solid testament to all that is admirable — and all that is disreputable — in the human spirit.

Book Review: 'Disturbance-Loving Species'

by Rose Havard

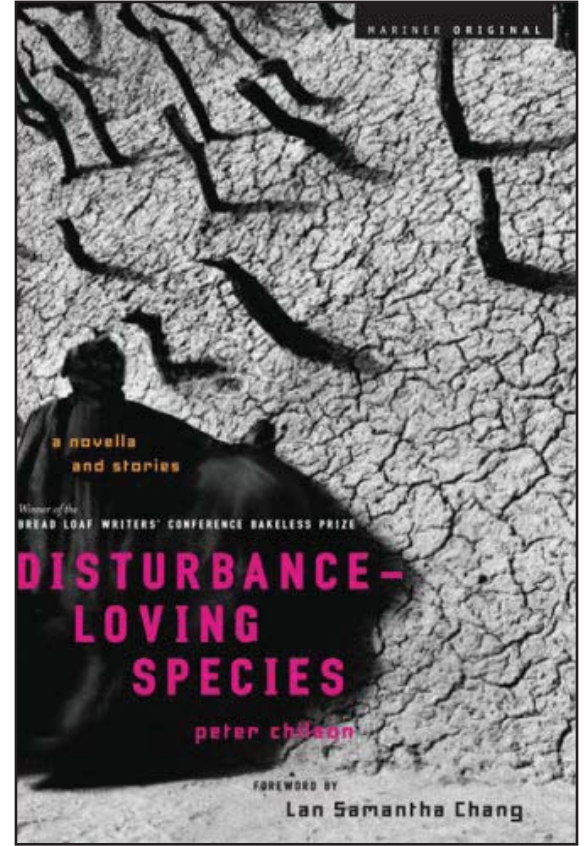
The sad state of Africa's war-scarred nations is not terribly shocking news to anyone in the United States. Corporations and pop stars alike tack themselves onto causes, promoting the view that they care about the degenerating human race by "raising awareness" of the deplorable conditions African orphans suffer every day. Commercials advertise Africa's misery, and ads call for Westerners to "make a difference" by donating a couple dollars to a starved, HIV-riddled continent. Thousands of posters and billboards display children's dark faces staring out desperately, slideshows show stick-thin legs and grossly distended bellies, and brochures reveal crying eyes, torn feet and bloody hands. When it comes to Africa, Americans are very well-informed and very willing to help. Right?

According to Peter Chilson, Americans and Europeans are completely missing the point.

Peter Chilson's "Disturbance-Loving Species" decidedly takes the reader beyond the common sympathy-inducing stories that highlight desolation and then charge the reader to become the ultimate bringer of justice. The book pleads with the reader to understand that Americans in general do not understand Africa at all.

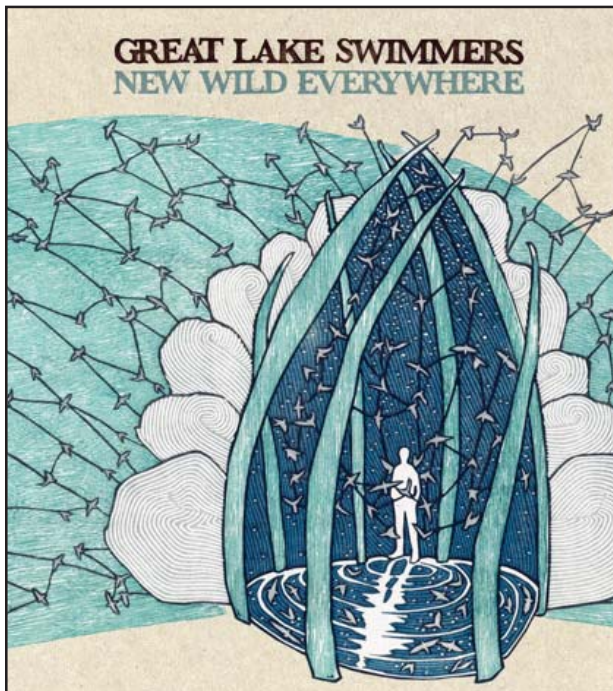
"Disturbance-Loving Species" is a collection of Peter Chilson's five fictional stories inspired by his years in Africa, first as a Peace Corp volunteer and second as a freelance journalist. Chilson explores Africa from the eyes of Americans: the visitors, the volunteers, the adventurers seeking to "broaden their horizons." Always in first person, Chilson presents five utterly unique accounts of experiences in Africa, each infuriating in their own way as injustice spears through every story. The stories reveal the severely ignorant nature of many Americans' understanding of the African people. His characters blunder rudely about, unable to see or refusing to acknowledge the true state of the people they are trying to help. Chilson shows how Americans' passing-through attitude and pervading sense of entitlement block them from understanding the African people's circumstances. His characters continually disrespect their African neighbor's customs and values by insisting to live their own way regardless of the people around them. They fail to grasp the effect of Africa's past on the people's present and future because they lack the curiosity and courage to ask the right questions.

Chilson does not hold back for sake of propriety. His descriptions are stark, rendered in the true reporter's style; the blunt, chillingly inhuman events that unfold in Niger's cities and understaffed hospitals bring tears. But Chilson also reveals that Africa is not all misery and gloom. Africans are complex, strong, enthralling, beautiful people, and that is what many Americans and Europeans fail to see.



Music Review: 'New Wild Everywhere'

by Becca Powlus



Fronted by the talented singer-songwriter Tony Dekker, Great Lake Swimmers is a 10-year-old folk indie band from Toronto, Ontario. Throughout the past decade the band has become a favorite in their homeland of Canada, winning the title of "Favorite Folk/Roots Group" in the 2010 Canadian Indie Awards. Their unique sound and habit of recording in odd places has earned them much respect in the music world.

The band's latest album, "New Wild Everywhere," is their fifth CD and was released April 3. The presence of the banjo, harmonica, violin, drums, and acoustic and electric guitars all work together to create an unforgettable sound. Add Dekker's soothing vocals and lyrical talent into the mix, and you've got a beautiful work of art on your hands. The music of "New Wild Everywhere" is the kind you can feel; it goes beyond your ears and probes into your heart, into something deeper.

Appropriately enough, this album really is about the "wild." Though some people might consider the songs to have a somewhat transcendentalist bent, the nature-related lyrics are no doubt singable and refreshing. There is great symbolism and depth in the words and messages, often contemplating and questioning aspects of life and echoing sentiments about humanity. The overall result is a work that is relatable and introspective.

In a music world often characterized by meaninglessness and (let's be frank) stupidity in both lyric and sound, Great Lake Swimmers is a refreshing respite. So do yourself and the world a favor — turn off the nauseating "Call Me Maybe" jams for a while and listen to what else Canada has to offer; listen to something with depth, something intelligent, something like "New Wild Everywhere."

Analysis: How Just is the NCAA?

It's time for student-athletes to be paid for the money their performances earn

by Jesse Silk

It seems that just about every time a sports or news program is on television, one of the stories is inevitably about an NCAA rules violation. While recent stories have dealt with a variety of issues, many of them deal with payments that break NCAA regulations. Upon hearing of these violations, most people do not question the nature of the violation, as it seems rather indisputable that the rules were broken. Usually, sports fans are more concerned with what type of penalties will be handed down and how they will change a team's competitiveness in the immediate future.

But why exactly are these rules in place? Of course, it depends on the situation, but in the case of players accepting payment and compensation, there's certainly a debate to be had, and it's one of economic justice.

The primary reason NCAA student-athletes cannot be paid is because of the disparity between an amateur and a professional athlete. A student voluntarily participating in a sport is in an entirely separate activity than someone working as an athlete for a living. This is the premise of the NCAA, and it seems like a fair argument on the surface.

However, when tested, has proven to be incredibly flawed. The idealism of the NCAA and the economic state of college athletics are at odds with one another.

A recent study by the National College Players Association and Drexel University reveals the extent of the monetary issues in collegiate athletics. Co-author of the study, Dr. Ellen J. Staurowsky, said of the student-athlete concept, "The mythology of the 'student-athlete' as promoted by the NCAA is revealed to cover up a system of inequities in compensation and treatment for the athletes who make the most sacrifices and contribute the most to the enterprise."

According to the studies, between the highest grossing sports (football and basketball), many of the wealthiest programs are reeling in eight-figure revenues, yet an astounding number of the student-athletes in these programs live below the federal poverty line. The SEC (Southeastern Conference) has an astronomical ratio: between Florida, Tennessee, South Carolina and Arkansas, the schools averaged over \$69 million from football and basketball revenues in 2010 while their players' fiscal statuses were in the bottom third of all players in the study.

In his book "Through My Eyes," New York Jets and former Florida University quarterback Tim Tebow says, "The NCAA's stance on paying players — or not paying them — seems unfair to me, with the preposterous amounts of money being made by the schools, television, coaches and the like. And the players?"



Photo courtesy of the Tampa Bay Times

Former Florida quarterback Tim Tebow, now in the NFL with the New York Jets, wrote in his book that not paying college athletes "seems unfair to me."

Tebow, an outspoken Christian, is not only informed by common sense, but his belief in biblical principles prompts his statements. And while, for example, there are Christians with different positions on America's economic debates, this matter is different. We would hate to compare our beloved college sports to a form of slavery, but when the numbers point to extremely affluent institutions earning their profits off of virtually free labor, it doesn't seem as distant a term.

But with all the scholarships being handed out to athletes, is it really free labor? Scholarships help the student-athletes while still maintaining the NCAA's principle of amateurism, so why exactly does a change need to occur?

First, the vast majority of these scholarships are not adequate to lift the student-athletes out of poverty. According to the NCAP studies, in college football 85 percent of Football Subdivision (FBS) schools' full scholarships still leave their athletes in poverty.

Universities are not responsible for solving the economic troubles of the masses, but the worth of the athletes is what makes this issue so pertinent. According to a fair market analysis, the average FBS college football

player should be earning \$121,048. College basketball players would be earning an average of \$265,027.

We do not even need statistics to tell us the immense success of prominent college athletic programs. Anyone with access to a television knows of the vast support and prosperity that these sports garner. Endorsements, jersey sales and television and video game contracts earn millions for programs. In the NCAA video games, rights to players' identities are supposedly withheld to maintain the "fairness" and amateurism of college athletics. But when people see "QB No. 15" for

the Florida Gators on NCAA football, everyone knows it's Tim Tebow. You can even replace the players' names or download rosters that name all the players for you.

So, as much as we would just like to enjoy college athletics and not view them in terms of money, we do not have that option. As Christians and students in an NCAA school, we should not fear the idea of opposing this economic system, but should instead approach the issue as we would other cultural dilemmas. If our school encourages us as citizens of the United States to be agents of change in its policies, how is the NCAA any different?

In regard to what should be done to provide positive change, there are multiple suggestions that are circulating. Compensating collegiate athletes based on their contributions is a difficult matter to discern, but it is an achievable task. Also, some suggest that more pronounced and accessible semi-pro leagues would be a solution to providing athletes with pay for essentially performing the same service they do at a university. One thing is for sure, though: sensibility and rectitude need to be injected into the current setup so that this widespread injustice is alleviated.

Responding to Mental Illness in the 21st Century Means Love and Understanding

by Jesse Silk

Our chapel theme at Cedarville this year is “Sharpening the Christ-Centered Mind.” How we use that mind is only limited by how diligently we pursue God’s truth. But have we ever stopped to think what our lives would look like if something was wrong with that God-given mind? What would become of our education and career, our interactions with family and friends, and — most importantly — our understanding of the Gospel?



Though we may not find ourselves in that scenario, millions of people are not so fortunate and are affected by many varied mental ailments. According to a recent National Comorbidity Survey Replication (NCS-R) that analyzed about 10,000 subjects, over 20 percent of Americans are classified as having a mental illness (not including those with drug dependencies). The realization that 1 in 5 people are afflicted by a mental illness should cause us to recognize the importance of this issue.

However, what is perhaps more pressing

than meditating on that statistic is truly considering how we view mental illness. Thankfully, society has advanced from the disturbing days of when the mentally ill were made spectacles for public entertainment or were kept in chains or cages. But have we actually distanced ourselves from humanity’s trend to respond to the unfamiliar with harmful ignorance?

In the religious sphere, one of the misconceptions most detrimental to the mentally ill is the belief that mental illness is mostly a matter of spiritual warfare. While not impossible, when physical evidence of an imbalance in brain chemicals is as evident as that of a broken bone, it is foolish and inhumane to impose a mistaken, guilt-ridden generalization on already-struggling victims. When our thoughts turn to blame of others before taking an open-minded approach to helping them, we know we need to have a transformation in ourselves before we can expect to help others.

Christians ought to be the foremost proponents of helping the mentally ill through science and medicine. If our faith is “assurance about what we do not see,” how much easier is it then to believe the empirical evidence that has emerged in the field of psychology? Not every one of us will become a psychologist, but we all need to be well-informed enough to respond to the pain of our fellow humans by act-

ing out of love and referring them to a helpful source.

Just think about the prevalence of mood disorders and how those plagued with them can be so misunderstood. Too often I have seen believers distance themselves from people who show melancholic tendencies, and neuroticism is viewed as something that should not be present in a Christian’s life. People with proven mood disorders don’t just “need more Jesus” in their lives — they need medical treatment. It’s like looking at a starving person and handing them a Bible instead of food.

Fortunately, many of us have gotten beyond the mistaken views of mental illness and have a servant’s heart for these people. We have seen the suicidal situations and the tearing apart of families, and have witnessed the harmful behavior that comes with a wide variety of mental afflictions, and we long for these people to be healed with peace. To get involved, you can familiarize yourself with organizations like the National Alliance on Mental Illness (go to www.nami.org to check it out).

Since this problem affects so many in society, we do not necessarily need to search for it. More people than we realize are dealing with these issues. Mental illness is an ever-present issue ready to be positively impacted by those who demonstrate love and understanding.

Thank you

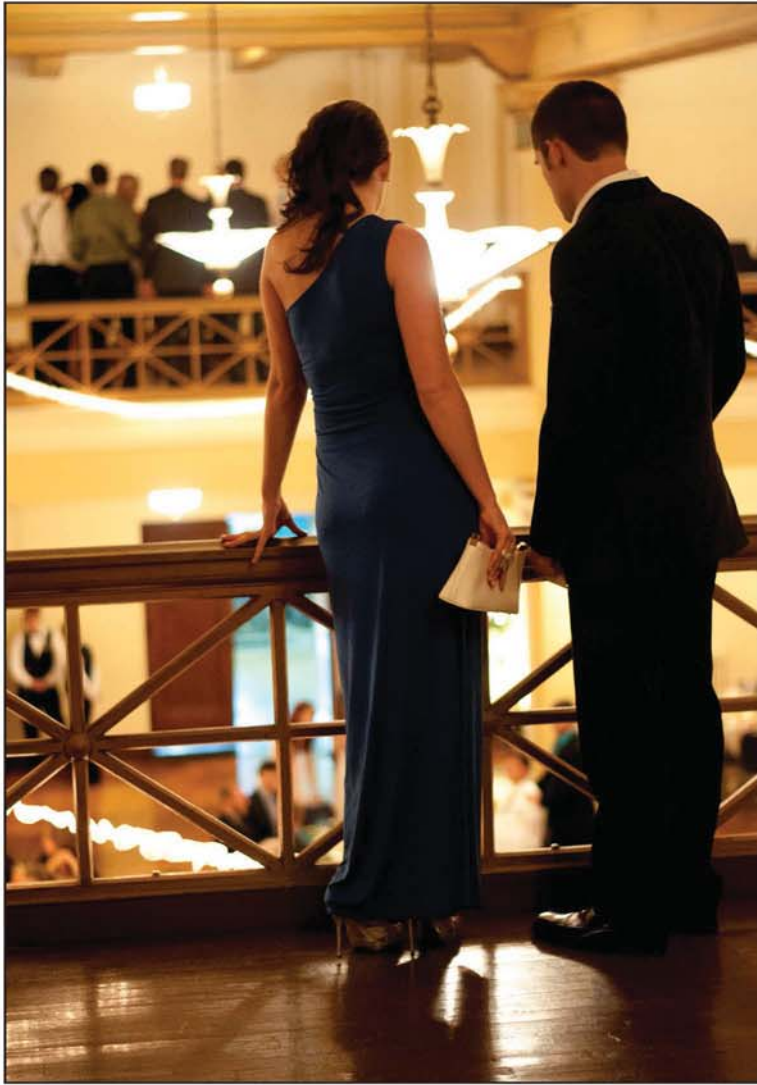
On behalf of the seniors on staff, we would like to thank you for your readership these past few years. We came in as sophomores with a huge task in front of us — rebuilding the paper from the ground up and managing countless expectations and opinions. The beginning was discouraging at times, but we grew and things began to fall into place. It’s been hard work and we’ve learned so much through this experience, but none of it would have been possible without your support.

Emily Severance
Managing editor

Dear seniors on the Cedars staff — your efforts, your abilities, your willingness to learn and lead and your sense of humor have been a blessing these past three years. Thank you for making Cedars an award-winning student publication and for inspiring the next generation of editors and staff members. You will be missed.

Jeff Gilbert
Faculty adviser

Junior-Senior 2012



Photos by Emily Severance

Top left, Allison Esbenshade and Matt Knole and, top right, Emily Sweet and Katie Hunt, enjoy the festivities at this year's J-S at the Columbus Athenaeum. Above, Hayden Browning (left) and Dexter Carpenter (right) help provide some of the entertainment.